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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Political Information: Activities of Archbishop Viktor

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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Note: See [REDACTED] which refers to the jurisdictional dispute between Archbishops Viktor and John mentioned below. Archbishop Viktor, who is the Moscow-sponsored head of the Russian Orthodox Church in China, was elevated to the position of senior Archbishop in China, with the Archdiocese at Peiping, in 1933 by the Russian Orthodox Synod, which was at that time in exile in Yugoslavia. He collaborated conspicuously with the Japanese, and was decorated by the Japanese government. Archbishop John /Iona or Ioann/ is a Russian Archbishop in Shanghai who has refused to accept the Moscow Patriarch, and who recognises only the authority of the primate of the Orthodox Church in the United States. See also [REDACTED] which reported that Archbishop Viktor had received a permit to enter the USSR. 25X1A2g

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([REDACTED] Note: See [REDACTED] which indicated that Archbishop Viktor planned to be in North China for several months in connection with the reorganization of the Peiping Russian Orthodox Mission.)

1. Activities of the Russian Orthodox Mission in Peiping are under the complete control of Tichvinasky, Acting Consul General of the USSR Consulate in Peiping. Upon his instructions, Archbishop Viktor has separated the clergy of the mission into three categories: Soviet clergy, Chinese clergy and non-Soviet /? White Russian /? Clergy. The last group has been excluded from the life and activities of the mission. All efforts are being made to indoctrinate the Chinese clergy with pro-Soviet sentiments.
2. Archbishop Viktor has decided to renew his attacks against the St. Seraphim Emigrants' Church in Tientsin. He plans to make a certain emigrant, Budai or Bagai, head of the church, provided that he places the church under the jurisdiction of Archbishop Viktor rather than Archbishop John. Another plan /? an alternative proposed by Viktor /? is to appoint Father D. Shevenko of the Peiping Orthodox Mission. Father Shevenko is a Chinese citizen who is on good terms with both Soviets and emigrants.
3. In view of the repatriation of Soviet citizens, the Tientsin Soviet clergy fear that they will soon be without funds, especially since the Orthodox community is divided into three parishes: Orthodox Emigrant, Chinese Missionary and Soviet. Archbishop Viktor has suggested that the parishes be combined to make two and that the rector of the Chinese Missionary Church agree to head the Moscow Patriarch Mission. This proposal has not met with the approval of Rev. Feodor DHU (TU), rector of St. Innocentii Church (? Chinese Missionary Church ?). The Chinese Orthodox clergy in Tientsin have lately become suspicious of the activities of the Peiping Orthodox Mission and Soviet officials. [REDACTED] concerning DHU. /

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